

November 8, 1968

The Hon. Paul.N. McCloskey  
House of Representatives  
1719 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Pete:

First let me add my congratulations to the resounding vote of confidence that you received from the voters of San Mateo County.

Mr. Nixon's victory statement focussed on the theme "Bring us together". There is one important and relevant decision that might easily be overlooked in the press of business during the days to come. I am referring to the character and reputation of the man whom the President will name as his Science Advisor, the post now held by Dr. Don Hornig.

The Office of the Science Advisor is not at a crucial focus of decision-making in the sense of the Secretaries of the major departments. However, he is an important channel of communication between the President and the scientific and academic community. For this reason, this appointment will loom very large in our new President's success in mobilizing the support of the leaders of intellectual life in this country.

My particular anxiety about this appointment stems from the character of a self-constituted group of Nixon's campaign supporters led by Admiral Strauss. I enclose a news comment that appeared in Science magazine for October 11 which quotes some perhaps intemperate and personally offensive remarks that can be put down to campaign rhetoric, but which nevertheless reflect the reactions of a very great many scientists to such names as I have encircled on Mr. Strauss's solicitation. It would be a disastrous blow to hopes of conciliation if Dr. Teller or others identified with his position on issues like arms control were to be named to the symbolically important post of Science Advisor.

I do not write this letter with the intention of pressing for any particular candidate for this position. It is my hope that the importance of it be fully recognized and that Mr. Nixon's choice be preceded by the deliberation and consultation that it deserves.

There are some sources of competent and, hopefully, objective advice, for example, the National Academy of Sciences and the members of the President's Science Advisory Committee under previous administrations. The Academy might conceivably be asked to constitute an ad hoc committee to make some informal recommendations, not only the names of candidates but on some of the areas that deserve a high priority of attention; alternatively, the incoming president of the Academy, Phil Handler; Harrison Brown, its Secretary for International Affairs; and Harvey Brooks of the Academy's Committee on Science and Public Policy would be particularly noteworthy. Professor Brooks, as you may well know, has already

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has been especially concerned about improving channels of communication between science and Congress.

I also enclose a hastily compiled list of the members of President Eisenhower's Science Advisory team. Despite the ravages of time, there are still many people on these lists whom it would be wise to consult about candidates for the position of Science Advisor.

I have confirmed with your Belmont office our appointment for 8 a.m. Wednesday, November 20, for breakfast at a place to be confirmed, and look forward to seeing you at that time. I am just assembling the group of my colleagues and will try to ~~put~~ give you an advance list of who may be expected to be there.

All best wishes for the new term.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

Enc. Science 10/11  
10/18  
Sfrauss letter